REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended. New dependent claims 7-12 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The invention as claimed provides a terminal which, after checking the validity of a script sheet containing a command group relating to a structural modification for a storage device, creates a digest from the command group in the script sheet, encrypts the digest, and then send she script sheet and the encrypted digest to the storage device. The storage device compares the command group contained in the script sheet received from the terminal, and the decrypted digest, and then performs the structural modification only when they are consistent with each other.

The configuration of the present invention does not require the storage device to check the validity of the script because it can confirm that the determination has already been conducted when the digest was received, and further, it can prevent falsification of the script sheet on a network. See paragraphs [0035], [0039], and [0040] of the present specification.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunami et al. (US 2003/0023665 A1) in view of Ylonen et al. (US 2004/0250072 A1). The Examiner recognizes Matsunami et al. does not disclose that the service processor determines approval or denial of execution of the command group prior to execution of the command group received from the terminal device, and cites Ylonen et al. for allegedly providing the missing teaching.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended is patentable over Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al. because, for instance, they do not teach or suggest a terminal device that creates a digest of the command group after determining that the command group is valid, uses a secret key to encrypt the digest created, and sends to the service processor a digest data of the digest encrypted using the secret key and the command group described on the script sheet; wherein the service processor decrypts the encrypted digest data received and compares the decrypted digest data with a digest data of the digest

created from the command group received, and determines approval or denial of execution of the command group, based on results of comparison between the decrypted digest data and the digest data of the digest created from the command group, prior to execution of the command group received from the terminal device.

Both Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al. fail to disclose or suggest, after determination of the validity of the command group, creating a digest from the command group and encrypting the digest. They further fail to teach or suggest, upon receipt of the command group and the encrypted digest from a terminal, comparing the command group and the decrypted digest to determine approval or denial of execution of the command group. The Examiner cites paragraphs [0042]-[0045] in Ylonen et al. for disclosing the comparison of the command group and the decrypted digest to determine approval or denial of execution of the command group. It does not. Instead, Ylonen et al. merely discloses verifying that the device identifier it got by computing matches the known device identifier of the correct management station. In Ylonen et al., the device (e.g., new network device) has the authorized other-device number (e.g., management station) or a user inputs the other-device number at the device (e.g., new network device).

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1, and claims 2, 3, and 7-12 depending therefrom, are patentable over Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al.

Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 4 as amended is patentable over Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al. because, for instance, they do not teach or suggest creating a digest of the command group when the command group is determined to be valid; using a secret key to encrypt the digest created; sending by the terminal device to the service processor a digest data of the digest encrypted using the secret key and the command group; creating a digest from the command group received by the service processor; decrypting the encrypted digest data received by the service processor to compare the decrypted digest data with a digest data of the digest created from the command group received by the service processor; and executing the command group to set a structure of the storage device in the case where results of comparison between the decrypted digest data and the digest data of the digest created from the command group indicates correspondency.

As discussed above, Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al. fail to disclose or suggest, after determination of the validity of the command group, creating a digest from the command group and encrypting the digest. They further fail to teach or suggest, upon receipt of the command group and the encrypted digest from a terminal, comparing the command group and the decrypted digest to determine approval or denial of execution of the command group. Ylonen et al. merely discloses verifying that the device identifier it got by computing matches the known device identifier of the correct management station, not comparing the command group and the decrypted digest to determine correspondency.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 4 and claim 5 depending therefrom are patentable over Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al.

Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 6 as amended is patentable over Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al. because, for instance, they do not teach or suggest creating a digest of the command group when the command group is determined to be valid; using a secret key to encrypt the digest created; sending by the terminal device to the service processor a digest data of the digest encrypted using the secret key and the command group described on the script sheet; creating a digest from the command group received by the service processor; decrypting the encrypted digest data received by the service processor to compare the decrypted digest data with a digest data of the digest created from the command group received by the service processor; and executing the command group described on the received script sheet to set a structure of the storage device in the case where results of comparison between the decrypted digest data and the digest data of the digest created from the command group indicates correspondency.

Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al. fail to disclose or suggest a script sheet containing a command group relating to the configuration information of the storage device. In addition, they do not teach or suggest, after determination of the validity of the command group, creating a digest from the command group and encrypting the digest. They further fail to teach or suggest, upon receipt of the command group and the encrypted digest from a terminal, comparing the command group and the decrypted digest to determine approval or denial of execution of the command group. Ylonen et al. merely discloses verifying that the device identifier it got by computing matches the known device identifier of the correct

management station, not comparing the command group and the decrypted digest to determine correspondency.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 6 is patentable over Matsunami et al. and Ylonen et al.

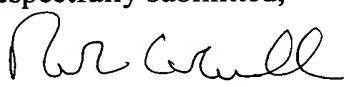
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Applicants respectfully request a telephone interview with the Examiner by counsel, Chun-Pok Leung, prior to the issuance of the next office action, should the present amendment fail to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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